

Keep San Marcos Beautiful May/June 2010 Newsletter



CITY OF SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY SERVICES -
PARKS AND RECREATION



May 26, 2010

KSMB Movie in Your Park Eco-Night



Keep San Marcos Beautiful hosted the 2nd Annual Movie in Your Park Eco-Night on Friday, May 7 at San Marcos Plaza Park. The event hosted over 300 participants as earth-friendly organizations from San Marcos gathered to share infor-

mation and activities with youth, adults and families. The night was a success thanks to the incredible vendors. A special thanks to San Marcos River Foundation, San Marcos Nature Center, Edible San Marcos, Sustainable San Marcos,

Texas Disposal Systems, Heritage Tree Care, San Marcos Public Services and San Marcos Parks and Recreation for participating again this year. KSMB's kids club recruited 40 members as well as handed out free t-shirts to all the kids.

Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program

Keep San Marcos Beautiful will award Beautification Grants annually to support neighborhoods in their efforts to beautify and improve public spaces. Keep San Marcos Beautiful designed the program to help groups of residents and neighborhood associations take ownership of

their local environment, and build a stronger community by developing and nurturing relationships among neighbors. Applications will be available Summer 2010 at the Parks and Recreation Main Office. KSMB will be able to award grants ranging from \$250-\$1,500! Grants will be

available to support physical improvements in the right-of-way or on public property including median landscaping, neighborhood signs, garden installations, murals, information kiosks, large-scale cleanups, graffiti removal, and the development of community gathering spaces.

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Keep San Marcos Beautiful

Ask the Arborist—Long Term Effects of Drought in Woody Plants

The extreme drought of 2008 and 2009 is thankfully behind us. The rain of last fall and spring has compensated for last year, right? Wrong. Unfortunately, visible symptoms of the type of drought we have just gone through in central Texas can take months or years to show up. You see, prolonged absence of moisture in soil permanently damages the membranes of root cells responsible for osmosis. Also, Photosynthesis slows down when temperatures reach 90 degrees. 100

degrees causes break down of chlorophyll. Imagine what happens to the plant's immune system without its main source of energy and without proper feeding roots. Already we have seen many of our beloved trees showing severe dieback, if not plain death. Beyond the obvious wilting and dieback, Hypoxylon canker, a weak fungal disease usually attacking very stressed trees is literally everywhere in central Texas. Commercial arborists such as myself are diagnosing many root rot infections, wood boring insects (beetles, termites),

a plethora of cankers and bacterial diseases at an unusually frequent rate. Encouraging a deep root system, mulching, watering with a soil lance, fertilizing and preventing soil compaction are all helpful in combating long term drought effects.

-Vincent Debrock

Heritage Tree Care, Manager
ISA Certified Arborist

#TX 1336-A

Commercial Pesticide

Applicator license #035886

International Society of Arborist



WANT TO BECOME A
MEMBER OF KSMB
AND RECEIVE FREE
KSMB MERCHANDISE?
CALL HEATHER
POWDRILL AT
512.393.8420 TO
RECEIVE MORE
INFORMATION!

Waste in Place Curriculum

Are you a teacher or an environmentally conscious parent? Then you should check out the Keep America Beautiful *Waste in Place* Curriculum! The *Waste in Place* Elementary Curriculum is an interdisciplinary environmental program focusing on litter prevention and waste reduction. The good news is the Keep San Marcos Beautiful coordinator is a trained *Waste in Place* Educator!

Originally introduced in 1979 and now used by thousands of schools nationwide, *Waste in Place* includes lessons on litter prevention, waste reduction,

recycling, composting, waste-to-energy, and landfills. KSMB believes that these are all methods of handling waste which must be understood and intelligently utilized if we are to successfully manage the waste we produce. No one approach to managing waste is the answer. It is the goal of this curriculum to make students more aware of the sources of municipal waste, the characteristics of this waste and the various options for handling it. Moreover, *Waste in Place* was designed to be an interdisciplinary approach. Instructional activities within *Waste*

in Place are designed for easy integration into school subject areas.

With the help of formal and informal educators like yourself, Keep San Marcos Beautiful will continue to promote the development of responsible attitudes and behaviors toward the environment.

For more information about the *Waste in Place* Curriculum, please contact Heather Powdrill at 512.393.8420 or by email at hpowdrill@sanmarcostx.gov.



Spring Neighborhood Cleanups Update

The City of San Marcos Community Services – Environmental Health Division has completed the Spring Neighborhood Clean-ups of the year. The three cleanups were held Saturday, March 13th for the neighborhood of Oak Heights, April 10th at Victory Gardens, and May 1st at the Willow Creek Neighborhood. As usual, it was a great success! The total amount collected for the three cleanups were 94.96 tons of waste, 10.77 tons of recyclable material, 243 tires, 11

automotive batteries, 6 air-conditioning units, 3 refrigerators, and 35 cubic yards of chipped brush and organic materials.

The City employees involved were Assistant Community Services Director, Mark Brinkley, Nick Alexander, coordinator of the event, Robert Piper, Charles Schlegel, and Keep San Marcos Beautiful Coordinator, Heather Powdermill. This group, with the help of other City Departments, contributed many hours of

back breaking work helping the citizens of three San Marcos neighborhoods unload their trash, recyclables and brush.

These events are a great public service provided by the City of San Marcos. Other cooperating partners include Keep San Marcos Beautiful, Texas Disposal Systems, Green Guy Recycling, San Marcos Public Services and Parks and Recreation. For more information, please call Environmental Health at 512.393.8442.



Adopt-a-Spot Updates

The Adopt-a-Spot program has been fortunate to have so many dedicated groups come out and help beautify our city. It continues to grow, and I am so pleased to say that we have finally erected the first five groups' Adopt-a-Spot signs! The beautiful

signs were created by the City's Sign Shop and the wood frame was built by the Parks and Recreation Crew Members. The signs were mounted Wednesday, May 26th. The five group signs displayed are Gamma Theta Upsilon, Chi Beta Delta, San

Marcos Noon Lion's Club, TSU G-Force, and the Central TX Flyfishers Club. After each group finishes their third cleanup, KSMB purchases the signs to recognize each group. Thank you again for your dedicated service to our city.

**KEEP IT SAN
MARVELOUS**

CTFF Angler and Aquatic Educational Program

If you've ever wanted to know the secret life of Texas rivers, you'll have your chance June 26 when the Central Texas Fly Fishers (CTFF) presents their Angler and Aquatic Educational Program. The course is scheduled for 9:00AM—1:00PM on Saturday, June 26 at the Old Fish Hatchery (206 N. C.M. Allen Pkwy) in San Marcos.

CTFF will present the FREE course in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It is designed to further participants' knowledge and love of Texas rivers and what goes on below the surface. Participants will also learn what fish feed on, how to identify aquatic insects and fish, and also learn about water quality and

stream safety. The program will also teach how to use a fly rod and some basic fly-tying skills. All gear will be provided. The course is designed for beginners from age 9 and up. No registration is required and no fees will be charged. For more information, please call Bill Woffard at 512.392.0623.



Keep it San Marvelous

CITY OF SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY SERVICES -
PARKS AND RECREATION

Municipal Solid Waste Task Force Town Hall Meeting

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Pursuant with City Council's goal to support environmental protection and smart growth, the Transportation Division of the Public Services Department has begun developing a comprehensive solid-waste management plan in conjunction with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

The City of San Marcos will utilize LCRA to develop a Comprehensive Solid-Waste Management Plan.

The goal of the Compre-

hensive Solid-Waste Management Plan is to design and implement an integrated solid-waste system that is responsive to the City's vision and growth by leveraging economies of scale and public-private partnerships.

The scope of the project includes: (1) Identification of urban growth and solid-waste trends, (2) Review of existing solid-waste services, (3) Identification of community vision and requests, (4)

Development of a comprehensive, strategic plan.

The Solid Waste Task Force now wants YOUR comments, ideas and opinions. Join them at a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, June 9th at 6:30PM at the San Marcos Activity Center (501 E. Hopkins). This will be an interactive public input meeting to gather information from interested and concerned citizens. Refreshments will be provided.

www.sanmarcostx.gov

Join Keep San Marcos Beautiful

We are creating a tradition of litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification for our community that we hope will last for centuries. You can support this effort by joining or making a donation to KSMB. You can also volunteer in our local parks and greenspaces, adopt a spot, help organize events, encourage beautification education, or voice your support to community leaders and your family and friends. Each member will receive a KSMB t-shirt and a litter bag filled with KSMB goodies. Detach this bottom portion and send to mailing address indicated below.

Membership levels: (circle one)

Kids 12 & under - FREE

Individual - \$10

Family - \$15

Small business - \$25
(20 employees or less)

Large business - \$50

Your contribution is tax deductible.
You will receive a receipt via email.

Send payment and this form to:

Keep San Marcos Beautiful
Attn: Heather Powdrill
630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Make your check payable to:
City of San Marcos KSMB

Please PRINT your information below. Your information will not be sold or shared.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company (if appropriate): _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Your email address will keep you connected and save us money. We keep your information private and typically send emails only once or twice per month.

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Volunteer interests (circle all that apply)

Adopt-a-Spot

KSMB Special Events

San Marcos River Cleanup

Waste in Place Curriculum